

SOUTH CLYDEBANK AREA COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the South Clydebank Area Committee held in the Court Room, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Thursday, 27 March 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors James McElhill, Mary Campbell and *John McCutcheon; Patricia Rice, Rhona Young, Isabella Ashrif, John Hainey and John Hearn.

* Arrived later in meeting.

Attending: Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Jeff Stobo, Manager of Strategy, Social Work and Housing Services; Ronald Dinnie, Head of Roads, Transport & Environmental Services; David McLeish, Section Head, Land Services; Alistair Johnston, Section Head (Accounting and Budgeting); and David Rooney, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Danny McCafferty and John Syme and Mr. Gordon King.

Councillor James McElhill in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Committee held on 30 January 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

In relation to a point which was raised by Ms. Rice concerning the item in the Minutes under the heading "Catering Facilities at the Play Drome", it was noted that additional tables and chairs had not yet been provided in the foyer area. It was agreed that a reminder be sent to the Director of Commercial and Technical Services with respect to this matter.

OPEN FORUM – WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Consideration was given to a letter which had been received from Mr. Joe Hughes, 108 Lilac Avenue, Mountblow, Clydebank concerning the issue of when housing and environmental improvement works will be carried out in the Lilac Avenue/Salisbury Place area of Mountblow.

A paper which had been prepared by the Manager of Strategy, Social Work and Housing Services in relation to the issue raised, was circulated at the meeting.

Having heard the Manager of Strategy and after discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (a) that the Head of Housing Services be requested to send a written response to Mr. Hughes;
- (b) that a supervisor from the Neighbourhood Liaison Project team, which was due to become operational in May 2003, could arrange to visit Mr. and Mrs. Hughes to advise on the action which had been taken with respect to the areas of concern that had been raised and proposed future action in this connection; and
- (c) that the matter be referred to the Housing Issues Working Group for further consideration.

It was also agreed that in future the type of issue which had been raised by Mr. Hughes should not be accepted as an item of business for consideration by the Area Committee and should more appropriately be directed to the relevant Committee/ Working Group of the Council.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee held on 17 February 2003 were submitted, for information, and noted.

RESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee held on 17 February 2003, the Committee was requested:-

- (a) to consider a recommendation from the North Clydebank Area Committee that the possibility of replacement Community Representatives being co-opted to serve on the Area Committee, rather than an election being conducted, be investigated; and
- (b) to note that any change to the current arrangements would require an amendment to Standing Orders being submitted to Council for approval.

After discussion it was agreed:-

- (1) to support the concept of using co-option as a means of bringing the number of Community Representatives on Area Committees up to full complement in the event of casual vacancies occurring;
- (2) to suggest that should the use of co-option ultimately be approved, public notice should be given of any vacancies for Community Representatives and the fact that nominations were being sought from interested individuals; and

- (3) to note the position in relation to the amendment to Standing Orders which would be required to permit co-option of Community Representatives to take place.

ORGANISATION OF AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee held on 17 February 2003, the Committee was requested:-

- (a) to note a recommendation from the Vale of Leven Area Committee that, in light of the volume of business the Vale of Leven Area Committee be permitted to meet once a month; and
- (b) to note that there is provision in the Standing Orders to allow the Convener to adjourn the meeting and to call a Special Meeting, the time, date and venue to be determined by the Convener.

In the course of discussion serious concern was expressed with respect to the increased demands which would be placed on officers and the additional costs which would be incurred should the Vale of Leven Area Committee, and consequently the other Area Committees, be permitted to meet once a month.

It was agreed:-

- (1) that the principle of Area Committees meeting on a monthly basis be opposed; and
- (2) that the existing provisions which allow Conveners of Committees to adjourn meetings and to call special meetings be noted.

DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE/ELECTED MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive presenting a draft protocol for community representative/member/officer relations.

After discussion it was agreed that the draft protocol be accepted.

PROPOSED WATER TREATMENT WORKS AT MILNGAVIE

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Committee held on 30 January 2003, the Committee agreed to note the decision of East Dunbartonshire Council's Planning Board on 25 February 2003 to grant planning permission to Scottish Water for the Katrine Water Project which involves the construction of replacement water treatment works at Milngavie.

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GRANT

Details of an application for a local grant which had been received from Whitecrook One O'Clock Gang (Ref. 02/147) were submitted.

It was noted that the application had been referred to the Area Committee for consideration from the meeting of the Finance Working Group which was held on 11 March 2003.

Having heard the Section Head (Accounting and Budgeting) and the Clerk to the Committee and after discussion it was agreed:-

- (a) to note that the criteria applicable to the consideration of applications for local grants during the 2002/03 financial year only permitted grants to be approved in relation to environmental projects or projects involving young persons and that the application presently before the Committee was therefore ineligible;
- (b) to note that a report which had been submitted to Council on the issue of the allocation of funding to the Area Committees from the local grants budget for the 2003/04 financial year had been referred to the Finance Working Group, the next meeting of which was due to take place on 22 April 2003; and
- (c) that the application from Whitecrook One O'Clock Gang be referred back to the Finance Working Group as the Area Committee was unable to award a grant at the present time for the reasons outlined in (a) and (b) above.

NOTE: Councillor McCutcheon entered the meeting during consideration of the above item.

DISABLED ACCESS TO SHOPS WITHIN CLYDE REGIONAL CENTRE

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Committee held on 30 January 2003, the Committee was advised that a letter had been sent to the Manager of the Clyde Shopping Centre requesting that a representative attend the next meeting of the Area Committee to give a presentation on the outcome of the Disability Access survey that was being carried out by consultants.

In this connection, a letter was submitted from the Centre Manager dated 6 March 2003 advising that the survey had not yet been completed and suggesting that it would be inappropriate to have a presentation at this time in relation to an incomplete report.

After discussion it was agreed to record that the Committee was disappointed that the invitation for a representative to attend the meeting had been declined, but that a further invitation be extended for a representative to attend the next meeting of the Committee in relation to this matter.

The Committee also agreed to note the contents of a letter dated 8 February 2003 which had been received from the Secretary of West Dunbartonshire Access Panel in response to the letter which had previously been sent to that group advising of the Committee's concerns regarding disabled access and access by parents with prams/pushchairs in the Shopping Centre.

DISABLED FRIENDLY BUSES WITHIN CLYDEBANK AREA

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Committee held on 30 January 2003, the Committee was reminded that it had been agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries to ascertain if this matter had been raised by Ms. McIntosh at the meeting of the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority (SPTA) which she had been due to attend in November 2002.

Having heard the Clerk it was noted that it appeared that the matter had not been raised with the SPTA. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the SPTA to request that the issue be placed on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the organisation.

It was also agreed that the matter could be raised in the Council's Transportation Working Group and that representation could also be made to the SPTA by that body.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF MOUNTBLOW RECREATION GROUND AND SPORTS PAVILION

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Committee held on 30 January 2003, it was noted that Mr. Ronald Dinnie, Head of Roads, Transport & Environmental Services and Mr. David McLeish, Section Head, Land Services were in attendance to give a presentation on the proposed development/upgrade of Mountblow Recreation Ground and Sports Pavilion.

Having heard the presentation by Mr. Dinnie and following discussion it was agreed to note:-

- (a) that the drawings which had been produced were purely indicative and the proposals would require to be the subject of consultation with the local community;
- (b) that the cost of the project would be in the region of £1.5 million;
- (c) that an initial application for funding had been made to sportscotland and an indication had been given that a second stage application should be submitted;
- (d) that enquiries were also being made with respect to the possibility of obtaining funding from the Heritage Lotteries Fund; and

(e) that match funding would require to be provided by the Council.

It was also agreed that the officers should contact Councillor McLaughlin, Convener of Corporate Services, to discuss potential funding for the project.

The Chair, Councillor McElhill, thanked Messrs. Dinnie and McLeish for attending and giving the presentation on the proposed project.

OPEN FORUM – VERBAL QUESTIONS/ISSUES

In relation to a question which was raised by Ms. Rice concerning the possible closure of one of the Shopping Malls within the Clyde Shopping Centre, it was noted that none of the Members or officers present could provide information in this regard. It was further noted that Councillors Campbell and McElhill would contact the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services to enquire about the matter and any relevant information would be forwarded to Ms. Rice.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m. with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.